

of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, American Lake, Washington, in an amount not to exceed \$38,220,000.

(2) Replacement of Operating Suite at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Columbia, Missouri, in an amount not to exceed \$25,830,000.

(3) Construction of a new clinical addition at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Fayetteville, Arkansas, in an amount not to exceed \$56,163,000.

(4) Construction of Spinal Cord Injury Center at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in an amount not to exceed \$32,500,000.

(5) Medical facility improvements and cemetery expansion of Jefferson Barracks at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, St. Louis, Missouri, in an amount not to exceed \$69,053,000.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2006 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility leases in fiscal year 2006 at the locations specified, and in an amount for each lease not to exceed the amount shown for such location:

(1) For an outpatient clinic, Baltimore, Maryland, \$10,908,000.

(2) For an outpatient clinic, Evansville, Illinois, \$8,989,000.

(3) For an outpatient clinic, Smith County, Texas, \$5,093,000.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2007 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility leases in fiscal year 2007 at the locations specified, and in an amount for each lease not to exceed the amount shown for such location:

(1) For an outpatient and specialty care clinic, Austin, Texas, \$6,163,000.

(2) For an outpatient clinic, Lowell, Massachusetts, \$2,520,000.

(3) For an outpatient clinic, Grand Rapids, Michigan, \$4,409,000.

(4) For up to four outpatient clinics, Las Vegas, Nevada, \$8,518,000.

(5) For an outpatient clinic, Parma, Ohio, \$5,032,000.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2006 for the Construction, Major Projects, account, \$1,044,000,000 for the projects authorized in section 1.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS UNDER CAPITAL ASSET REALIGNMENT INITIATIVE.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2007 for the Construction, Major Projects, account, \$1,750,120,000 for the projects whose authorization is extended by section 2.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraph (1) shall remain available until September 30, 2009.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2007 for the Construction, Major Projects, account, \$221,766,000 for the projects authorized in section 3.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.—

(1) FISCAL YEAR 2006 LEASES.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2006 for the Medical Care account, \$24,990,000 for the leases authorized in section 4.

(2) FISCAL YEAR 2007 LEASES.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2007 for the Medical Care account, \$26,642,000 for the leases authorized in section 5.

(e) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in sections 1 and 2 may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2006 or 2007 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section;

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2006 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2006 or 2007 that are available for obligation; and

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2006 or 2007 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

SEC. 7. INCREASE IN THRESHOLD FOR MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.

(a) INCREASE.—Section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$7,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2006, and shall apply with respect to any fiscal year beginning on or after that date.

SEC. 8. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY UNDER SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPENDENTS OF SERVICEMEMBERS.—

(1) CHILDREN.—Section 3501(a)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in clause (ii) by striking “or” at the end;

(B) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(C) by inserting after clause (ii) the following clause (iii):

“(iii) is hospitalized or receiving outpatient medical care, services, or treatment pending discharge from the active military, naval, or air service for a total disability permanent in nature resulting from a service-connected disability (as determined by the Secretary), or”.

(2) SPOUSES.—Subparagraph (D) of section 3501(a)(1) of such title is amended to read as follows:

“(D)(i) the spouse of any veteran who has a total disability permanent in nature resulting from a service-connected disability.

“(ii) the spouse of any person who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient medical care, services, or treatment pending discharge from the active military, naval, or air service for a total disability permanent in nature resulting from a service-connected disability (as determined by the Secretary), or

“(iii) the surviving spouse of a veteran who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 3511 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “both sections 3501(a)(1)(D)(i) and 3501(a)(1)(D)(ii)” and inserting “sections 3501(a)(1)(D)(i), 3501(a)(1)(D)(ii), and 3501(a)(1)(D)(iii)”;

(B) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “3501(a)(1)(A)(iii)” and inserting “3501(a)(1)(A)(iv)”;

(C) in subsection (c), by striking “3501(a)(1)(A)(iii), 3501(a)(1)(C), or 3501(a)(1)(D)(i)” and inserting “3501(a)(1)(A)(iv), 3501(a)(1)(C), 3501(a)(1)(D)(i), or 3501(a)(1)(D)(ii)”.

(2) PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY.—Section 3512 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “3501(a)(1)(A)(iii)” and inserting “3501(a)(1)(A)(iv)”;

(B) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking “3501(a)(1)(D)(i), or 3501(a)(1)(D)(ii) of this title.” and all that follows through the end, and inserting the following: “or 3501(a)(1)(D) of this title. In the case of a surviving spouse made eligible by clause (iii) of section 3501(a)(1)(D), the 10-year period may not be reduced by any earlier period during which the person otherwise was eligible for educational assistance under this chapter as a spouse described in clause (i) or (ii) of that section.”; and

(C) in subsection (d), by striking “veteran” and inserting “person”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATES.—Section 5113(b)(3) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) The term ‘veteran’ includes a person as described in sections 3501(a)(1)(A)(iii) and 3501(a)(1)(D)(ii) of this title.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 26, 2006, at 4:30 p.m., in closed session for a briefing on the situation in Afghanistan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 26, 2006, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on “An Update on the New Basel Capital Accord.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a full committee joint hearing with Foreign Relations Committee on the International Polar Year on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 3:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President: I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, September 26th at 2:15 p.m. the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a Business Meeting to consider the following agenda:

Legislation

H.R. 1463, To designate a portion of the Federal building located at 2100 Jamieson Avenue, in Alexandria, Virginia, as the “Justin W. Williams United States Attorney’s Building”.

Nominations

Roger Romulus Martella, Jr. to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Alex A. Beehler to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

William H. Graves to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority

Brigadier General Bruce Arlan Berwick to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission

Colonel Gregg F. Martin to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission

Brigadier General Robert Crear to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission

Rear Admiral Samuel P. DeBow, Jr. to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission

Resolutions

Six Committee resolutions authorizing prospectuses from GSA's FY 2007 Capital Investment and Leasing Program

Committee resolution to direct GSA to prepare a Report of Building Project Survey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on "Health Savings Accounts: The Experience So Far."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at 9 a.m. to hold a hearing on Child Hunger.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at 3:15 p.m. to hold a hearing on the International Polar Year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Illegal Insider Trading: How Widespread is the Problem and is there Adequate Criminal Enforcement?" on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness List

Panel I: Mr. Ron Tenpas, Associate Deputy Attorney General, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, and Ms. Linda Thompson, Director of Enforcement, U.S. Securi-

ties and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC.

Panel II: Mr. Robert Marchman, Executive Vice President, NYSE, New York, NY; Mr. Christopher K. Thomas, Principal, Measuredmarkets, Inc., Toronto, Canada; Professor John Coffee, Professor of Law, Columbia Law School, New York, NY; Professor Jonathan R. Macey, Professor of Law, Yale University, New Haven, CT; and Professor James Cox, Professor of Law, Duke University, Durham, NC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a special markup on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. in Senate Dirksen Building Room 226.

Agenda

I. Nominations

Terrence W. Boyle, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit; William James Haynes II, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit; Kent A. Jordan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit; Peter D. Keisler, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; William Gerry Myers III, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit; Nora Barry Fischer, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania; Gregory Kent Frizzell, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma; Marcia Morales Howard, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; John Alfred Jarvey, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa; Sara Elizabeth Lioi, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio; and Lisa Godbey Wood, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Judicial Nominations" on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness List

Panel I: The Honorable Thad Cochran, United States Senator, R-MS; The Honorable Trent Lott, United States Senator, R-MS; The Honorable Christopher Dodd, United States Senator, D-CT; The Honorable Joseph Lieberman, United States Senator, D-CT.

Panel II: Michael Brunson Wallace, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Panel III: Vanessa Lynne Bryant, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Panel IV: Roberta B. Liebenberg, Chair, American Bar Association, Standing Committee on the Federal

Judiciary, Philadelphia, PA; Kim J. Askew, Fifth Circuit Representative, Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, American Bar Association, Dallas, TX; Thomas Z. Hayward, Former Chair, 2003-2005, American Bar Association, Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, Chicago, IL; Pamela A. Bresnahan, Former DC Circuit Representative, 2002-2005, American Bar Association, Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, Washington, DC; Timothy Hopkins, Former Ninth Circuit Representative, American Bar Association, Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, Idaho Falls, ID; and Doreen D. Dodson, Former Eighth Circuit Representative, 2001-2004, American Bar Association, Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, St. Louis, MO.

Panel V: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Hartford, CT; The Honorable Reuben Anderson, Partner, Phelps Dunbar LLP, Jackson, MS; W. Scott Welch, Shareholder, Baker, Donelson, Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, Jackson, MS; Carroll Rhodes, Attorney at Law, Hazlehurst, MS; and Robert McDuff, Attorney at Law, Jackson, MS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, to hold a hearing to consider the nomination of Robert T. Howard to be Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security be authorized to meet on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. for a hearing regarding "Deconstructing the Tax Code: Uncollected Taxes and Issues of Transparency".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 10:45 a.m. for a hearing entitled, Senior Executives: Leading the Way in Federal Workforce Reforms.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.